



The President's Daily Brief

18 December 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Juan Peron's candidate for the Argentinian presidency is opposed by many Peronistas and the armed forces. (Page 1)

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Prime Minister Papadopoulos has eased the state of martial law in Greece. (Page 2)

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ARGENTINA

Hector Campora has been nominated--at Juan Peron's insistence--to be the Peronist front's presidential candidate.

Campora's nomination has set off political strife in the Peronist camp and is likely to meet strong opposition from Argentina's military rulers as well. Campora is widely regarded by both sides as a man of limited ability whose main qualification for office is his loyalty to Peron. He is not acceptable to the powerful Peronist labor organization or to radical youth; both groups staged protest demonstrations against Campora's nomination that had to be broken up by the police.

The military would view Campora's election as being as objectionable as putting Peron himself back in power. The officer corps may well put pressure on President Lanusse to disqualify Campora from the race on the grounds that the candidate had left the country after 25 August, the date set for all candidates for president to be residing in Argentina.

The controversy over Campora's nomination could lead Peron to shift his support to another candidate.

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NOTES

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Greece: In his annual state-of-the-nation address on Saturday Prime Minister Papadopoulos announced that martial law will be ended in Thessalonica--Greece's second largest city--leaving only the Athens area still under military law. Papadopoulos also promised to present the regime's decisions on future political developments sometime in 1973, but added that these decisions will not necessarily affect the suspension of constitutional provisions concerning elections and parliamentary government.

USSR: The plenum of the party central committee we expected to take place last Saturday was not held. We will be watching the proceedings of the Supreme Soviet, which is still scheduled to open today, for clues to the problems in the central committee that might have led to the postponement.

Romania: Warsaw Pact members are censuring Romania for its attitude during the preparatory talks leading to a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. During the past week criticism of Romania's position has appeared in a number of East European newspapers and Polish party chief Gierek canceled a visit to Bucharest. At the same time, pact diplomats have been boycotting official Romanian functions. Last Friday, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister kept his appointment for an official visit to Bucharest, but he minced no words in criticizing the Romanians for breaking ranks with the Warsaw Pact during the Helsinki talks. There is no sign that the Romanians intend to modify their positions and we expect the pact states to increase political pressure on the Ceausescu government.

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Uganda-UK: President Amin today announced the take-over of all foreign-owned tea plantations and eight of Uganda's largest businesses. Twelve tea estates and seven of the businesses are British-owned; one is a US company. In addition, some 3,000 British aid personnel must now decide whether to work in Uganda for local wages or leave the country by the end of the month. Those who wish to stay will be screened to weed out potential "spies" or hostile "propagandists."

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